

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 27. (canceled)

28. (new) A method of restricting the annulus of a heart valve, the heart valve having an anterior portion and a posterior portion, the posterior portion defining lateral and central portions, comprising:

limiting expansion of the lateral portions of the posterior portion of the heart valve while leaving the central portion of the posterior portion of the of the heart valve unrestrained.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein:

the heart valve is a mitral valve having A, P₁, P₂, and P₃ portions, and the lateral portions are the P₁ and P₃ portions.

30. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

said limiting expansion includes coupling a first device adjacent P₁ and a second device adjacent P₂.

31. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

said limiting expansion includes cinching the lateral posterior portions relative to a device.

32. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein:

said limiting expansion includes cinching each of the lateral posterior portions relative to a discrete device.